into account for deciding location of new TV transmitters are, *inter alia,* the existing coverage in the area, the extent of resultant coverage of the new transmitter, need to provide services to remote, tribal, backward, hilly, sensitive border areas, economic and cultural importance of a place, *inter-se* priorities of projects and availability of funds.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Scheme for setting up of a Very Low Power Transmitter (VLPT) at Chidgaon has been sanctioned and is expected to be completed during 2002-03.

(d) Does not arise.

Auction of FM Radio Stations

2295. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the number of FM radio stations which have been auctioned as on 31st December, 2001;

(b) the number of cities for which the auction was held;

(c) the number of cities in Andhra Pradesh including Hyderabad for which auction was held; and

(d) the total revenue earned on account of the open auction of FM radio stations?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) 101 channels were auctioned between 1st March to 15th March, 2000.

(b) The auction was held for 40 cities.

(c) In Andhra Pradesh, auction was held for 2 cities i.e. Hyderabad and Vishakhapatanam.

(d) Total revenue earned on account of open auction of FM radio stations is Rs. 6394.60 lakhs (which includes earnest moneys but excludes bank guarantees lying with the Government).